

Message Text

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PGOV, CY, TU

SUBJECT:VEST MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU, JULY 5

REF: NICOSIA 1643, 1650

1. ON INSTRUCTIONS, CYPRUS AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU CALLED ON EUR ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST JULY 5 TO BRING TO DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION PRESIDENT KYPRIANOU'S DESIRE TO VISIT ENCLAVED GREEK CYPRIOTS IN THE KARPAS AND THE TURKISH CYPRIOTS' REFUSAL TO COOPERATE. DIMITRIOU REVIEWED BRIEFLY GOC EFFORTS TO SECURE UN ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING SUCH A VISIT, AND TOUCHED ON THE "IMPOSSIBLE" CONDITIONS THAT DENKTASH HAD SET DOWN. HE STRESSED THAT KYPRIANOU, AS PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, HAD THE RIGHT TO VISIT ANY PART OF CYPRUS AND NEEDED PERMISSION FROM NOBODY IN ORDER TO DO SO. DENKTASH'S
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REACTION WAS SIMPLY A FURTHER EXAMPLE OF TURKISH CYPRIOT "INTRANSIGENCE AND CHAUVINISM." DIMITRIOU EMPHASIZED THAT KYPRIANOU'S PURPOSE IN WANTING TO VISIT THE NORTH WAS PURELY HUMANITARIAN--TO OBSERVE FIRST-HAND THE LIVING CONDITIONS OF THE ENCLAVED GREEK CYPRIOTS AND TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE TO ALLEVIATE THESE. SUCH A VISIT WOULD HAVE HAD THE BENEFICIAL SIDE-EFFECT OF IMPROVING THE ATMOSPHERE BETWEEN THE TWO COM-

MUNITIES. DIMITRIOU NOTED THAT OTHER CYPRIOT DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVES ALSO HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO INFORM THEIR HOSTS OF THIS SITUATION. IN ADDITION, ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER

PATSALIDES HAD TAKEN THE MATTER UP IN NICOSIA WITH AMBASSADOR STONE ON JULY 4.

2. VEST SAID THAT WE APPRECIATED BEING KEPT INFORMED AND WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HEARING HOW THE GOC'S EFFORTS TO SECURE UN ASSISTANCE FINALLY TURN OUT. DIMITRIOU NOTED THAT SIMILAR APPROACHES WERE BEING MADE TO THE OTHER PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, FOR THEIR INFORMATION, AND HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO GIVE SOME THOUGHT TO THE CASE.

3. IN SUBSEQUENT GENERAL REVIEW OF THE CYPRUS SITUATION, VEST COMMENTED THAT DURING HIS RECENT VISIT TO EUROPE HE HAD FOUND GOVERNMENTS IN BOTH EAST (ROMANIA) AND WEST DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER THE CYPRUS DISPUTE FOR THE INSTABILITY AND UNCERTAINTY THAT IT BROUGHT TO THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION. THIS CONCERN PROMPTED THE WESTERN EUROPEANS TO SUPPORT REPEAL OF THE TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO ON THE GROUNDS THAT THIS OFFERED A POSSIBLE WAY OUT OF THIS UNACCEPTABLE SITUATION. THE FEELING WAS THAT AT THE VERY LEAST, LIFTING THE EMBARGO WOULD DEPRIVE THE TURKS OF A PRETEXT FOR NOT BEING PROPERLY FORTHCOMING.
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4. IN SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION OF TURKISH EMBARGO, DIMITRIOU POINTED OUT THAT IN SEEKING ITS REPEAL THE ADMINISTRATION WAS FOCUSING ON EFFECT RATHER THAN CAUSE. THE CAUSE OF THE EMBARGO--THE TURKISH INVASION AND OCCUPATION--WOULD CONTINUE UNABATED AFTER REPEAL. DIMITRIOU ARGUED THAT THE EMBARGO WAS DESIGNED FIRST AND FOREMOST TO PRESERVE THE RULE OF LAW IN US FOREIGN POLICY; INDUCING PROGRESS TOWARDS A SETTLEMENT ON CYPRUS HAD BEEN ONLY A "SPIN-OFF" FROM THIS PRIMARY OBJECTIVE. HENCE, REGARDLESS OF ITS IMPACT IN FACILITATING OR IMPEDING A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT, THE EMBARGO SHOULD BE MAINTAINED SINCE THE RULE OF LAW WAS STILL BEING VIOLATED BY THE CONTINUED AGGRESSION THAT THE TURKISH OCCUPATION OF SOVEREIGN CYPRUS TERRITORY REPRESENTED. DIMITRIOU ASSERTED FURTHER THAT, EVEN WERE THE EMBARGO LIFTED, TURKEY COULD STILL BE FOUND IN VIOLATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF GENERAL US LEGISLATION ON ARMS TRANSFERS. VEST TOOK NOTE OF THE DIFFERENT PERCEPTIONS THAT WE HAVE ON THE EMBARGO, BUT UNDERScoreD THAT WE SHARED THE COMMON OBJECTIVE OF WORKING FOR A JUST AND LASTING CYPRUS SETTLEMENT.

5. DIMITRIOU EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT WE HAD GIVEN THOUGHT AS TO HOW TO PROCEED IF AND WHEN THE EMBARGO WAS LIFTED. IT SEEMED TO HIM THAT WE HAD REQUIRED NOTHING OF ECEVIT IN EXCHANGE, WHERE IN FACT WE SHOULD BE UTILIZING THE LEVER-

AGE WE STILL HAVE TO APPLY MAXIMUM PRESSURE FOR FORTHCOMING INITIATIVES ON CYPRUS. VEST DREW ATTENTION TO ECEVIT'S REPEATEDLY-EXPRESSED INTENTION TO BE FLEXIBLE AND FORTHCOMING AS SOON AS NEGOTIATIONS RESUME, AND REITERATED OUR HOPE THAT THE GOC WOULD PUT THESE PROMISES TO THE TEST. WHILE NOTING THAT WE HAD NO BRIEF TO SPEAK FOR GREECE, DIMITRIOU SAID IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S TESTIMONY ON THE EMBARGO HAD FOCUSED ONLY ON THE BENEFITS THAT REPEAL WOULD HAVE FOR TURKEY AND HAD IGNORED

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THE VERY TROUBLESOME EFFECTS IT WOULD HAVE IN GREECE. VEST POINTED OUT THAT OUR PROGRAM, AS EXPLAINED BY THE SECRETARY IN HIS APRIL 6 STATEMENT AND SUBSEQUENTLY, WAS DESIGNED TO IMPROVE OUR RELATIONS WITH ALL THREE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES. THE IMPRESSION THAT WE WERE INTERESTED MAINLY IN TURKEY WAS PROBABLY DERIVED FROM CONGRESSIONAL QUESTIONING WHICH INEVITABLY FOCUSED ON TURKEY. VEST NOTED THAT WHILE REPEAL OF THE EMBARGO COULD LEAD TO SHORT-TERM STRAINS IN OUR RELATIONS WITH GREECE, WE FELT THAT THIS WOULD BE A MANAGEABLE PROBLEM. VANCE

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